

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the 2020-2021 Community School Sponsor Evaluation

Ohio law, with recently passed House Bill 67 of the 134th General Assembly, has modified the 2020-2021 community school sponsor evaluation. The Frequently Asked Questions provided below offer responses for the most common questions about modifications to the 2020-2021 community school sponsor evaluation.

**1. According to Ohio law, there will be no report card ratings for the 2020-2021 school year. How does that affect the 2020-2021 community school sponsor evaluation?**

There will not be an Academic Component calculated for the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation cycle. The overall 2020-2021 sponsor rating will be calculated using only the Compliance and Quality Practices components.

Ohio law specifies that the Department will not publish state report card ratings for the 2020-2021 school year. As the Academic Component cannot be calculated without report card ratings, the Academic Component will not be included in the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation in accordance with Ohio law.

The available report card data will still be published for recovery and improvement planning and usage. Please refer to the [Report Card Resources Frequently Asked Questions webpage](#) for additional details on the data available for the 2020-2021 school year (*coming soon*).

**2. Last year there were some compliance items that did not apply to sponsors where sponsors were unable to complete or work towards compliance due to school building closures during the 2019-2020 school year. Does that same excusal process apply to the 2020-2021 school year?**

No. There are currently no provisions in law that allow for any exemptions, pardons or allowances regarding a sponsor's or school's inability to fulfill any compliance requirements. The law requires sponsors, and subsequently their schools to be compliant with all applicable laws and rules, which includes those items on both the sponsor and oversight of schools' compliance worksheets.

**3. How do the changes to Ohio law affect sponsors that are currently exempted from being evaluated?**

Ohio law specifies that for sponsors currently exempted from being evaluated due to the provisions of Ohio Revised Code 3314.016(B)(7)(b), the 2020-2021 school year will not count toward the number of years for which such sponsors are not required to be evaluated. Therefore, currently exempted sponsors will receive their next evaluation for the 2023-2024 school year.

**4. How do the Ohio law changes affect sponsors that the state is currently evaluating for the 2020-2021 school year?**

### Sanctions

Per Ohio law, the community school sponsor ratings issued for the 2020-2021 school year will have no effect in determining sanctions or penalties. Therefore, sponsors receiving a rating of "Poor" for 2020-2021 will not lose their sponsoring authority. In addition, sponsors receiving a rating of "Ineffective" for 2020-2021, for which such rating is their third consecutive rating of "Ineffective," will not lose their

sponsoring authority. Sponsors that receive a rating of “Ineffective” or “Poor” for the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation may continue sponsoring and will be evaluated again during the 2021-2022 sponsor evaluation. While there is a safe harbor based on the 2020-2021 ratings, the ratings from prior and future years still count in determining if a sponsor is subject to sanctions or penalties.

#### Incentives

Additionally, Ohio law specifies that the 2020-2021 sponsor ratings will not qualify a sponsor for any incentive for which the sponsor was not previously eligible prior to receiving that rating. Therefore, sponsors for which the 2020-2021 rating will represent their third consecutive rating of “Effective” or “Exemplary” will not be eligible to begin a three-year evaluation cycle. Such sponsors will be evaluated again for the 2021-2022 sponsor evaluation. Sponsors for which the 2020-2021 rating represents their first or second consecutive rating of “Effective” or “Exemplary” will be evaluated for the 2021-2022 school year. For these sponsors, the 2020-2021 ratings will not count toward attaining eligibility for a three-year evaluation cycle. Although the 2020-2021 ratings will not be considered for this purpose, the ratings from prior and future years will continue to count.

#### **5. What are the similarities and differences between the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation ratings and the 2020-2021 ratings?**

Similar to the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation, the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation will not include the Academic component. Only the Quality Practices and Compliance components will be evaluated.

A difference between the two evaluation cycles, however, is that while the 2019-2020 sponsor evaluation had no ratings issued for the Quality Practices and Compliance components and no overall sponsor rating was issued, the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation will issue an overall sponsor rating as well as ratings for the Quality Practices component and the Compliance component.

Although the 2020-2021 sponsor evaluation will result in ratings, the ratings will not count toward any penalties or sanctions. In addition, the 2020-2021 ratings cannot be used as the means through which a sponsor becomes eligible for any incentives.

**EXAMPLE SCENARIOS FOR THE EVALUATION TIMELINE FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL SPONSORS**

	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Effective or Exemplary	Effective or Exemplary	Effective or Exemplary	Exempted – (COVID No Impact)	Exempted – (COVID No Impact)	Exempted – Year 1	Exempted – Year 2	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Effective or Exemplary	Exempted – Year 1
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Effective or Exemplary	Effective or Exemplary	Effective or Exemplary	Exempted – (COVID No Impact)	Exempted – (COVID No Impact)	Exempted – Year 1	Exempted – Year 2	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Ineffective	<b>Evaluated</b>
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Ineffective	Effective or Exemplary	Effective or Exemplary	<b>Report Only</b>	Effective or Exemplary (COVID No Impact)	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Effective or Exemplary	Exempted – Year 1	Exempted – Year 2	<b>Evaluated</b>
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Ineffective	Ineffective	Effective or Exemplary	<b>Report Only</b>	Effective or Exemplary (COVID No Impact)	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Effective or Exemplary	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Effective or Exemplary	Exempted – Year 1	Exempted – Year 2
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Ineffective	Ineffective	Effective or Exemplary	<b>Report Only</b>	Ineffective – (COVID No Impact)	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Ineffective	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Ineffective	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Ineffective	<i>Lose Sponsoring Authority</i>
<b>For sponsors with ratings of...</b>	Effective or Exemplary	Ineffective	Ineffective	<b>Report Only</b>	Ineffective – (COVID No Impact)	<b>Evaluated</b> and receive Ineffective	<i>Lose Sponsoring Authority after 2021-2022 (third consecutive) evaluation rating of Ineffective</i>		